Study report on new IITs

2665. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the S.K. Joshi Committee, set up to study a proposal to start five new IITs in different States, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the major recommendations made by the Committee and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) whether the Committee has suggested any fresh guidelines to evaluate the academic standing and infrastructure of an institute for its upgradation to the status of and "IIT"; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir. (b) to (d) The Committee, after considering factors which are used in the evaluation of technical Institutions by AICTE, arrived at benchmarks for parameters such as Faculty, Research Publications/Patents, Research Guidance, Course offered, student population, physical infrastructure, Geographical Locations and its advantages/disadvantages etc. in order to shortlist institutions having the potential for upgradation to IITs. Though the Committee has identified a few institutes possessing the best potential among the Engineering & Technology Colleges in the country for upgradation to the level of IITs, it feels that there exists a substantial gap between the selected institutes and IITs. No fresh guidelines were suggested.

The Committee were, therefore, of the view that before taking the final decisionon their recommendations, the Ministry of HRD may like to set up a small expert group that would need to visit the identified Institutions to assess at their suitability and also to assess, first hand, the problems of transformation of these Institutions to IIT like Institutes. the group can then also arrive at the quantum of one time financial support needed for managing such a transformation of the Institutions in the event the Government decides to upgrade any of them.